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09/943,786	08/31/2001	Michel Shane Simpson	1363-007	1045

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EXAMINER

LY, ANH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2162

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/943,786

Applicant(s)

SIMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Anh Ly

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2162

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is response to Applicants' REPONSE filed on 07/10/2006.
2. Claims 21-41 are pending in this Application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 21-27 and 32-36 are software per se. Because the body of these claims are software/utilities steps/processes, not hardware processes. These process does not produce a tangible and useful results.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 21 and 32 recites the limitation "the directory classes of two or more disparate directories" in lines 9-10 of claim 21 and in lines 10-11 of claim 32. There are insufficient antecedent basis for these limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 21-35, and 37-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,470,332 issued to Weschler in view of US Patent No.: 6,260,039 B1 issued to Schneck et al. (hereinafter Schneck).

With respect to claim 21, Weschler teaches a computer system comprising: a directory shell able to reference two or more disparate directory each having a directory class (a program or application that maintains the directories in the X.500 is called Directory Server Agent (DSA) and these directories is meta-directories having at least two disparate directories within an enterprise: col. 4, lines 26-58), the directory class in one of the directories being dissimilar in directory objects and data from the directory

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class in another of the directories (each directory has a different name of attribute, dissimilar with each another: fig. 3, col. 8, lines 28-63);

an administrator utility with the directory shell configurable to associate the directory class in the one of the directories to the directory class in the another of the directories (administrator will use the software application to access and process data or search/locate the object in the directories that are under LDAP or X.500 environment: col. 3, lines 55-67, col. 4, lines 38-67 and col. 5, lines 1-35).

Weschler teaches searching or querying or locating the object via the disparate directories under X.500 or LDAP compliant directories over the computer network as shown in fig. 1. Weschler does not clearly teach a directory browser with the directory shell whereby users can search the directory classes with a single query of the user-searchable category.

However, Schneck teaches Admin Interface (fig. 1, item 106), which permits access by an administrator and a web browser (item 108), which permits access by a user. Both ADMIN Interface and Web Browser are for accepting a user's input to search or retrieve or access or view the directory (LDAP directory tree having a plurality of object classes, that is, searching the directory information base don the category: see fig. 4, item 408, get object class via LDAP, col. 5, lines 32-48 and col. 6, lines 30-45) or directory class based on the search criteria or category (col. 3, lines 22-52) of the two or more or disparate directories (col. 1, lines 20-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Weschler with the

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teachings of Schneck. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of administration interface from which a user, an administrator, permits accessing retrieving, searching information and resources in scalable, robust, secure messaging directories and can publish multiple views of such information or directories as disclosed (Schneck's fig. 1, fig. 4 and col. 1, lines 20-40 and col. 3, lines 22-52), into the system of Weschler for the purpose of to ease for displaying, retrieving, searching and protecting system resources, thereby, helping to providing a web interface for accessing directory (Schneck's col. 1, lines 15-20 and col. 2, lines 10-18).

With respect to claim 22, Weschler teaches wherein the two or more disparate directories are managed on a plurality of servers in communication with a computer onto which the directory shell is loaded ((see fig. 1 and fig. 2).

With respect to claim 23, Weschler teaches a computer system as discussed in the claim 21.

Weschler teaches searching or querying or locating the object via the disparate directories under X.500 or LDAP compliant directories over the computer network as shown in fig. 1. Weschler does not clearly teach including a directory interface operable to send the single query.

However, Schneck teaches both ADMIN Interface and Web Browser are for accepting a user's input to search or retrieve or access or view the directory (LDAP directory tree having a plurality of object classes, that is, searching the directory information base don the category: see fig. 4, item 408, get object class via LDAP, col. 5, lines 32-48 and col. 6, lines 30-45) or directory class based on the search criteria or

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category (col. 3, lines 22-52) of the two or more or disparate directories (col. 1, lines 20-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Weschler with the teachings of Schneck. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of administration interface from which a user, an administrator, permits accessing retrieving, searching information and resources in scalable, robust, secure messaging directories and can publish multiple views of such information or directories as disclosed (Schneck's fig. 1, fig. 4 and col. 1, lines 20-40 and col. 3, lines 22-52), into the system of Weschler for the purpose of to ease for displaying, retrieving, searching and protecting system resources, thereby, helping to providing a web interface for accessing directory (Schneck's col. 1, lines 15-20 and col. 2, lines 10-18).

With respect to claim 24, Weschler teaches further including a director driver for each of the two or more disparate directories to allow the directory interface to communicate therewith (fig. 1, internet for communicating between the directories).

With respect to claim 25, Weschler teaches wherein the user-searchable category includes a category attribute mapped to one or more class attributes of the directory class (abstract, fig. 3).

With respect to claim 26, Weschler teaches wherein the directory browser includes one of a list panel and a details panel where users can view search results of the single query (col. 3, lines 20-38 and col. 7, lines 50-67 and col. 8, lines 1-28).

With respect to claim 27, Weschler teaches wherein the administrator utility

Further includes a table for associating the directory class in the one of the directories to the directory class in the another of directories (fig. 3, different directories with different name of class attribute).

With respect to claim 28, Weschler teaches a method of searching in a computer system (abstract and col. 5, lines 38-45; fig. 3), comprising:

providing a directory shell with an administrator utility and a directory browser for loading onto a computer; and enabling the administrator utility to associate directory classes into a single user-searchable category (a program or application that maintains the directories in the X.500 is called Directory Server Agent (DSA) and these directories is meta-directories having at least two disparate directories within an enterprise: col. 4, lines 26-58; each directory has a different name of attribute, dissimilar with each another: fig. 3, col. 8, lines 28-63; and administrator will use the software application to access and process data or search/locate the object in the directories that are under LDAP or X.500 environment: col. 3, lines 55-67, col. 4, lines 38-67 and col. 5, lines 1-35).

Weschler teaches searching or querying or locating the object via the disparate directories under X.500 or LDAP compliant directories over the computer network as shown in fig. 1. Weschler does not clearly teach from the directory browser, enabling direct searching of the directory classes with a single query of the user-searchable category.

Schneck teaches ADMIN Interface and Web Browser are for accepting a user's input to search or retrieve or access or view the directory (LDAP directory tree having a

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plurality of object classes, that is, searching the directory information base don the category: see fig. 4, item 408, get object class via LDAP, col. 5, lines 32-48 and col. 6, lines 30-45) or directory class based on the search criteria or category (col. 3, lines 22-52) of the two or more or disparate directories (col. 1, lines 20-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Weschler with the teachings of Schneck. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of administration interface from which a user, an administrator, permits accessing retrieving, searching information and resources in scalable, robust, secure messaging directories and can publish multiple views of such information or directories as disclosed (Schneck's fig. 1, fig. 4 and col. 1, lines 20-40 and col. 3, lines 22-52), into the system of Weschler for the purpose of to ease for displaying, retrieving, searching and protecting system resources, thereby, helping to providing a web interface for accessing directory (Schneck's col. 1, lines 15-20 and col. 2, lines 10-18).

With respect to claim 29, Weschler teaches a method as discussed in the claim 28.

Weschler teaches searching or querying or locating the object via the disparate directories under X.500 or LDAP compliant directories over the computer network as shown in fig. 1. Weschler does not clearly teach includes mapping a category attribute of the single user-searchable category to one or more class attributes of the directory class.

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However, Gopal teaches ADMIN Interface and Web Browser are for accepting a user's input to search or retrieve or access or view the directory (LDAP directory tree having a plurality of object classes, that is, searching the directory information base don the category: see fig. 4, item 408, get object class via LDAP, col. 5, lines 32-48 and col. 6, lines 30-45) or directory class based on the search criteria or category (col. 3, lines 22-52) of the two or more or disparate directories (col. 1, lines 20-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Weschler with the teachings of Schneck. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of administration interface from which a user, an administrator, permits accessing retrieving, searching information and resources in scalable, robust, secure messaging directories and can publish multiple views of such information or directories as disclosed (Schneck's fig. 1, fig. 4 and col. 1, lines 20-40 and col. 3, lines 22-52), into the system of Weschler for the purpose of to ease for displaying, retrieving, searching and protecting system resources, thereby, helping to providing a web interface for accessing directory (Schneck's col. 1, lines 15-20 and col. 2, lines 10-18).

With respect to claim 30, Weschler teaches including displaying search results of the single query on a panel of the directory browser (col. 9, lines 15-63).

Claim 31 is essentially the same as claim 28 except that it is directed to a computer readable medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 28 hereinabove.

With respect to claim 32, Weschler teaches a computer system (fig. 1), comprising:

a directory shell for loading on a computer in communication with one or more servers having two or more disparate directories each with a directory class), the directory class in one of the directories being dissimilar in directory objects and data from the directory class in another of the directories, the directory shell having an administrator utility and a directory browser; a table in the administrator utility configurable to associate the directory class

in the one of the directories to the directory class in the another of the directories, the result of associating the directory classes being a user-searchable category; and a panel in the directory browser where users can view search results (a program or application that maintains the directories in the X.500 is called Directory Server Agent (DSA) and these directories is meta-directories having at least two disparate directories within an enterprise: col. 4, lines 26-58; each directory has a different name of attribute, dissimilar with each another: fig. 3, col. 8, lines 28-63; and administrator will use the software application to access and process data or search/locate the object in the directories that are under LDAP or X.500 environment: col. 3, lines 55-67, col. 4, lines 38-67 and col. 5, lines 1-35).

Weschler teaches searching or querying or locating the object via the disparate directories under X.500 or LDAP compliant directories over the computer network as shown in fig. 1. Weschler does not clearly teach a query portion in the directory browser

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whereby users can directly search the directory classes of the two or more disparate directories with a single query of the user-searchable category.

However, Schneck teaches Admin Interface (fig. 1, item 106), which permits access by an administrator and a web browser (item 108), which permits access by a user. Both ADMIN Interface and Web Browser are for accepting a user's input to search or retrieve or access or view the directory (LDAP directory tree having a plurality of object classes, that is, searching the directory information base don the category: see fig. 4, item 408, get object class via LDAP, col. 5, lines 32-48 and col. 6, lines 30-45) or directory class based on the search criteria or category (col. 3, lines 22-52) of the two or more or disparate directories (col. 1, lines 20-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Weschler with the teachings of Schneck. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of administration interface from which a user, an administrator, permits accessing retrieving, searching information and resources in scalable, robust, secure messaging directories and can publish multiple views of such information or directories as disclosed (Schneck's fig. 1, fig. 4 and col. 1, lines 20-40 and col. 3, lines 22-52), into the system of Weschler for the purpose of to ease for displaying, retrieving, searching and protecting system resources, thereby, helping to providing a web interface for accessing directory (Schneck's col. 1, lines 15-20 and col. 2, lines 10-18).

With respect to claim 33, Weschler teaches wherein the query portion and the panel are on a same page of the directory browser (fig. 3).

With respect to claim 34, Weschler teaches wherein the table includes one or more check boxes for the associating of the directory classes (col. 3, lines 20-38: graphical user interface with icon or check boxes).

With respect to claim 35, Weschler teaches wherein the table includes an enable column to indicate directory classes associated with the user-searchable category (fig. 3; abstract, col. 5, lines 52-64 and col. 9, lines 1-14).

With respect to claims 36-37, Weschler teaches a method of searching in a computer system (abstract and col. 5, lines 38-45; fig. 3), comprising:

creating a single user-searchable category from directory classes; directly searching the directory classes of the two or more disparate directories with a single query of the user-searchable category, the directly searching substantially avoiding creating or using a virtual directory (a program or application that maintains the directories in the X.500 is called Directory Server Agent (DSA) and these directories is meta-directories having at least two disparate directories within an enterprise: col. 4, lines 26-58; each directory has a different name of attribute, dissimilar with each another: fig. 3, col. 8, lines 28-63; and administrator will use the software application to access and process data or search/locate the object in the directories that are under LDAP or X.500 environment: col. 3, lines 55-67, col. 4, lines 38-67 and col. 5, lines 1-35).

Weschler teaches searching or querying or locating the object via the disparate directories under X.500 or LDAP compliant directories over the computer network as shown in fig. 1. Weschler does not clearly teach directory browser is formatted to be

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displayed in HTML format; and from the directory browser, enabling direct searching of the directory classes with a single query of the user-searchable category.

However, Schneck teaches HTML format (displaying in HTML format: col. 7, lines 18-48 and col. 8, lines 32-45; also see figs 10-12) and Admin Interface (fig. 1, item 106), which permits access by an administrator and a web browser (item 108), which permits access by a user. Both ADMIN Interface and Web Browser are for accepting a user's input to search or retrieve or access or view the directory (LDAP directory tree having a plurality of object classes, that is, searching the directory information base don the category: see fig. 4, item 408, get object class via LDAP, col. 5, lines 32-48 and col. 6, lines 30-45) or directory class based on the search criteria or category (col. 3, lines 22-52) of the two or more or disparate directories (col. 1, lines 20-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Weschler with the teachings of Schneck. One having ordinary skill in the art would have found it motivated to utilize the use of administration interface from which a user, an administrator, permits accessing retrieving, searching information and resources in scalable, robust, secure messaging directories and can publish multiple views of such information or directories and enabling a user to search information and display the search result in HTML format as disclosed (Schneck's fig. 1, fig. 4 and col. 1, lines 15-40 and col. 3, lines 22-52), into the system of Weschler for the purpose of to ease for displaying, retrieving, searching and protecting system resources, thereby, helping to providing a web interface for accessing directory (Schneck's col. 1, lines 15-20 and col. 2, lines 10-18).

With respect to claim 38, Weschler teaches wherein the creating further includes associating, in an administrator utility, the directory class in the one of the directories to the directory class in the another of the directories (fig. 1 and fig. 3 and col. 9, lines 15-64).

With respect to claim 39, Weschler teaches wherein creating further includes creating additional user-searchable categories for additional directory classes of the two or more directories (fig. 3).


With respect to claim 40, Weschler teaches wherein the creating further includes providing a directory shell for loading on a computer in communication with one or more servers having the two or more disparate directories (fig. 1 and fig. 3; abstract and col. 9, lines 15-64; also col. 5, lines 38-64).


Claim 41 is essentially the same as claim 37 except that it is directed to a computer readable medium rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 37 hereinabove.

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is (571) 272-4039 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV (**Written Authorization being given by Applicant (MPEP 502.03 [R-2])) or fax to (571) 273-4039 (Examiner's personal Fax No.)**). The examiner can normally be reached on TUESDAY – THURSDAY from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on (571) 272-4107 or **Primary Examiner: Jean Corrielus (571) 272-4032**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Any response to this action should be mailed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, or faxed to: **Central Fax Center: (571) 273-8300**

ANH LY 
SEP 26th, 2006


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER